

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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TWO NEW PHILIPPINE RODENTS.

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Two apparently undescribed rodents are included in a collection of mammals recently submitted to the U. S. National Museum for identification. These are characterized as follows:

***Rattus rattus umbriventer*, subsp. nov.**

*Type locality*.—1 mile southwest of Progreso, Mindoro Island, Philippine Islands. Altitude about 20 feet.

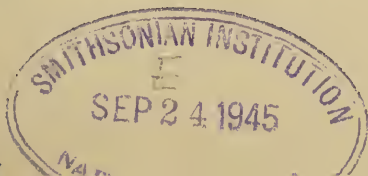
*Type specimen*.—Male adult, skin and skull; No. 277675, U. S. National Museum; collected May 31, 1945, by Arthur L. Gordon; original number 69.

*Distribution*.—Known only from southeastern Mindoro Island.

*General characters*.—Mammae, 2-3=10. Pelage of upperparts not harsh and rather thick. Tail in adults equal to or slightly shorter than head and body. Rows of scales on tail 8 to 9 per 10 mm. Hind foot (c.u.) equivalent to about 18.2 to 22.8 percent of head and body length. Palate extending behind  $M^3$ . Teeth like other members of *Rattus rattus* section, well cusped.  $M^1$  with five roots.  $M^3$  not strongly reduced. Upper molar row equivalent to about 17 to 18 percent of condylobasal length. Bullae about 18 percent of occipito-nasal length.

*Color* (Terms after Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912.).—Light ticking of upperparts rather conspicuous, resulting from the intermixture of hairs with light colored bands and unicolored black overhairs, and the showing through in the median dorsal region of the blackish plumbeous basal portions of the hairs. Dark tipped hairs of black and sides have a 3 to 7 mm. light buff to cinnamon buff subapical band, which on the sides is often lighter than in mid-dorsal region. Hairs on chin and throat white to base. Hairs on underparts in front of fore legs dusky basally but with whitish tips. On each side in pectoral region is a white area on which the hairs are white to base as are also the hairs on inside of fore limbs to wrists. Hairs on remainder of underparts,

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with exception of inguinal region, dusky at base with whitish or ivory yellow tips. Hairs on inguinal region lighter, some white to base. Hairs on fore and hind feet near deep mouse gray basally and with whitish tips, but often darker on median metapodials; ends of toes white. Tail unicolorous, dark to tip.

*Pelage.*—Hair on upperparts not harsh. Black overhairs on upperparts about 25 to 30 mm. in length. Hair on underparts soft. Hair on fore and hind feet short, 2.5 to 3 mm. in length. Tail moderately haired, the majority of the bristles as long as or only slightly shorter than the length of two scales. Tail with 8 to 9 rows of scales per 10 mm. Ears blackish, sparsely covered with short hairs externally and about 23 mm. in length from notch (alcoholic specimen).

*Skull.*—Similar to that of *Rattus rattus mindanensis*, but interpterygoid fossa and interorbital constriction narrower. Supraorbital ridges distinct, extending backward from interorbital constriction along orbital borders of frontals and lateral surfaces of parietals to or beyond level of squamosal-parietal suture. Anterior edge of zygomatic plate (external to infraorbital foramen) essentially the same as in *mindanensis*. Bullae narrow, moderately inflated and about 18 percent of occipito-nasal length. Incisive foramina elongated, extending backward behind level of front of anterior root of  $M^1$  and moderately widened behind the middle. A minute antero-external cusplet present on  $M^2$  and  $M^3$  in about half the specimens.  $M^3$  varying from 1.8 to 2 mm. in length. Upper incisors smooth, rounded in front, and retroflected to the same extent as in *mindanensis*.

*Measurements.*—*Type*: Total length, 422 mm.; tail, 211; hind foot, 40. Five male topotypes, respectively: Total length, 409, 398, 374, 372, 366; tail, 195, 197, 190, 184, 178; hind foot, 39, 38, 38, 38, 37.

Skull (type): Occipito-nasal length, 40.9; condylobasal length, 40.2; zygomatic width, 20.85; interorbital width, 5.45; length of nasals, 13.85; palatilar length, 20.2; incisive foramina, 7.9; length of bulla, 7.8; length of upper molar row, 7.4; length of mandible, 24.5. Five male topotypes, respectively: Occipito-nasal length, 42.3, 42.4, 39.6, 39.3, 39.4; condylobasal length, 41.4, 41.1, 38.7, 39.3, 38.75; zygomatic width, 20.9, 21.1, 19.8, 20.2, 20.2; interorbital width, 5.85, 5.6, 5.5, 5.8, 5.2; length of nasals, 15.1, 14.4, 13.85, 13.8, 13.6; palatilar length, 20.2, 20, 19.4, 19.5, 19.25; incisive foramina, 8.5, 8.0, 8.15, 7.6, 7.8; length of bulla, 8.0, 8.0, 7.4, 7.85, 7.3; length of upper molar row, 7.25, 7.35, 6.9, 7.2, 7.1; length of mandible, 24.15, 24.3, 24.6, 24.6, 23.

*Remarks.*—This rat is readily distinguished from other rats in this section of the genus by the coarse ticking of the upperparts and the color pattern of the underparts. A similar distribution of light and dark areas on the underparts occurs occasionally in other members of the *Rattus rattus* section.

*Specimens examined.*—Total number, 29, all from Mindoro Island, as follows: Progreso, 17; San Jose, 12.

**Chrotomys whiteheadi mindorensis**, subsp. nov.

*Type locality*.—3 miles south-southeast of San Jose (Central), Mindoro Island, Philippine Islands. Altitude, 200 feet.

*Type specimen*.—Male adult, skin and skull; No. 277639, U. S. National Museum; collected May 7, 1945, by Robert M. Roecker; original number 54.

*Distribution*.—Known only from type locality.

*General characters*.—Upperparts characterized by two black stripes and a prominent pinkish-cinnamon stripe which extend forward to forehead; muzzle long; ears medium; pollex with a short rounded nail; other digits, including hallux, with well-developed, little curved claws. Skull differs from typical race *whiteheadi* by having a slightly longer upper molar row (5.7 mm. as compared to 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3, respectively, for three specimens of *whiteheadi*), the posterior palatine foramina extend forward beyond level of the transverse maxillo-palatine suture, and  $M^3$  is larger (0.8 x 1.1 as compared to 0.6 x 0.75 and 0.6 x 0.8 for two specimens of *whiteheadi*).

*Color* (Terms after Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912).—Ground color of sides and adjacent portion of back tawny-olive. A well defined pinkish-cinnamon longitudinal median stripe extending from middle of face nearly to base of tail, bordered on each side by a blackish stripe of varying width. The black stripes merge anteriorly at about middle of face with black nose and extending backward through eyes and internal to ears are attenuated posteriorly at hinder end of longitudinal median light stripe; black stripes rather sharply delimited posteriorly and not merging imperceptibly into ground color above base of tail; sides of face and below eyes slightly lighter in tone than sides. Undersurface slaty-buff, not sharply defined from sides; upper surfaces of fore and hind feet tawny-olive, but digits are lighter. Tail blackish above and paler below.

*Pelage*.—Fur on upperparts soft, thick and straight; underparts less densely haired. Hairs on fore and hind feet short. Tail relatively short, well haired, the longest bristles slightly longer than the length of three scales; 21 rows of scales per 10 mm. Ears dark brown, sparsely covered with short dark hairs externally, those on margins of ears whitish.

*Skull*.—Rostrum elongated; nasals wider anteriorly and projecting farther forward than in *whiteheadi*; infraorbital foramen narrow, not noticeably widened dorsally; anterior edge of zygomatic plate (external to infraorbital foramen) nearly straight and vertical; braincase rather broad; supraorbital ridges indistinct. Incisive foramina short, equivalent in length to slightly more than one-fourth of the diastema and situated about half way between front of molar series and the incisors; hinder edge of palate slightly behind level of front of  $M^3$ . Pterygoids large, projecting downward considerably below level of either molars or bullae; bullae small, moderately inflated, and about 14.3 percent of condylobasal length. Upper incisors ivory-colored, moderately broad,

and strongly pro-odont; lower incisors much lengthened. Mandible with slender recurved coronoid process and with condyle bent abruptly inward.

*Measurements.*—*Type*: Total length, 306 mm.; tail, 120; hind foot, 40. Skull (*type*): Occipito-nasal length, 39.3; conchylobasal length, 42; zygomatic width, 22.3; interorbital width, 7.5; length of nasals, 13.2; palatilar length, 20.6; incisive foramina, 4.2; length of bulla, 6; length of upper molar row, 5.7; length of mandible, 26.8.

*Remarks.*—The type specimen has been compared with three specimens of typical *Chrotomys whiteheadi* which were collected by John Whitehead in February, 1895. One of these specimens came from Lepanto Province and the others from the mountains of northern Luzon.

*Specimens examined.*—One from type locality.